DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 185 686 EA 012 624

TITLE 1978-79 Florida Education Finance Program. Statistical Report. Series 79-14.
INSTITUTION Florida State Dept. of Education, Tallahassee. Div. of Public Schools.
PUB DATE Feb 79
NOTE 21p.; For a related document, see EA 012 623. Not available in paper copy due to marginal legibility of original document.

EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Elementary Secondary Education; *Full State Funding; Full Time Students; Postsecondary Education; Program Descriptions; *Resource Allocation; State Federal Aid; *State Programs
IDENTIFIERS *Florida

ABSTRACT

This report describes the 1978-79 program for financing public schools in Florida. The intent is to supply general information for those having a casual interest in state funding of schools and more detailed descriptions for the school administrator or the student of school finance. In addition, the document should be a useful reference for individuals wishing to identify legal authorization for various portions of the funding program. The first section of the report describes key features of the Florida Education Finance Program and provides background information about local, state, and federal support of education in the state. The second section identifies legal authorizations, outlines the requirements for participation, defines terms, and describes the current formula for distributing state funds to public schools. (Author)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

ED185686

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

1978-79 FLORIDA EDUCATION FINANCE PROGRAM

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

G. M. Kuhn

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

STATISTICAL REPORT

Division of Public Schools' MIS

Series 79-14
February 1979

EA 012 624

Statistical Report 79-14 is a description of the state program for financing public schools in Florida. The report was prepared by the Management Information Services Section of the Bureau of Management Systems and Services, Division of Public Schools, Florida Department of Education. For additional information contact Chase Crawford, 275 Knott Building, 904/487-2280.

(400)

Florida Department of Education
Tallahassee, Florida
32304
Ralph D. Turlington, Commissioner

State of Florida
Department of Education
Tallahassee, Florida
Ralph D. Turlington, Commissioner
An equal opportunity employer

FOREWORD

This report describes the program for financing public schools in Florida. The intent is to supply general information for those having a casual interest in state funding of schools and more detailed descriptions for the school administrator or the student of school finance. In addition, the document should be a useful reference for individuals wishing to identify legal authorization for various portions of the funding program.

The first section of the report (Introduction) describes key features of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and provides background information about local, state and federal support of education in the State.

The second section (Description of State Distribution) identifies legal authorizations, outlines the requirements for participation, defines terms, and describes the current formula for distributing state funds to public schools.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Traditionally state agencies have distributed dollars to school districts by formulas based upon instruction units or special services. In 1973, the Florida Legislature passed the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) which changed the focus for funding education in the State. The intent of the law is:

> "To guarantee to each student in the Florida public school system the availability of programs and services appropriate to his educational needs which are substantially equal to those available to any similar student notwithstanding geographic differences and varying local economic factors." Section 236.012(1), F.S.

The key feature of the finance program is to base financial support for education upon the individual student participating in a particular educational program rather than upon the numbers of teachers or classrooms. FEFP funds are generated by multiplying the number of full-time equivalent students (FTE's) in each of 26 educational programs by cost factors to obtain weighted FTE's. Weighted FTE's are then multiplied by a base student allocation and by a district cost differential to determine the basic amount for the operation of the various programs. Program cost factors are determined by the Legislature and represent relative cost differences among the FEFP programs.

To provide equalization of educational opportunity in Florida, the FEFP formula recognizes (1) varying program cost factors, (2) district cost differentials, (3) differences in per student cost for equivalent educational programs due to sparsity and dispersion of student population, and (4) required local effort.

The following paragraphs provide background information regarding financial support for education in Florida. The information relates to state, local and federal sources of support for public education in the state. The school districts of Florida received 53.2% of their financial support of schools from state sources, 36.6% from local sources and 10.2% from Federal sources for 1976-77.

State Support -- Funds for state support to school districts are provided primarily by legislative appropriations. The major proportion of state support is distributed under the provisions of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). The distribution of state funds is described in detail in the "Description of State Distribution" section of this document.

Capital outlay funds to the districts are provided in two sections of the Constitution of the State of Florida. Article XII, Section 9(d), of the State Constitution, provides a stated amount to each district annually from proceeds of licensing of motor vehicles. Article XII, Section 9(a), of the State Constitution, provides that school districts may share in the proceeds from gross utilities taxes as provided by legislative allocation.

In addition to the basic FEFP, funds are appropriated for categorical programs. There are also five special allocations with funds for environmental education programs, for instructional materials for the visually handicapped, for adult community instructional services, for school volunteer programs, and for compensatory education programs.

Other State Support -- Racing Commission funds are distributed to each county commission in equal amounts. Many county commissions share this revenue with school districts according to Legislative Acts of local application.

Local Support -- Local revenue for school support is derived primarily from real and personal property taxes. There are no local non-property taxes levied specifically for schools. Each of the 67 school districts in the State is a county-wide district.

Each school board desiring to participate in the state allocation of funds for current operation of schools may levy up to 8 mills of tax on the non-exempt assessed valuation of property for the current operation of the schools. Each board must levy the millage rate specified as the required local effort; for 1978-79 this rate is 6.4 mills. Under present law the minimum rate is set each year by the Legislature.

In addition, qualified electors may vote an additional millage levy for operation and capital outlay purposes for a period not to exceed two years. Tax levies for debt service are in addition to the levies for current operation but are limited by State Board of Education Rules to 6 mills except with specific State Board approval.

Qualified electors may vote for a local bond issue to be retired by a millage levy. State Board of Education Rules prohibit school districts from issuing school bonds in excess of 10% of the nonexempt assessed valuation of the district without specific State Board approval.

Federal Support -- The State Board of Education must approve plans for cooperating with the Federal government in carrying out any phase of the educational program in which it finds cooperation desirable and must provide for the proper administration of funds apportioned to the State from Federal appropriations. The State Board is responsible for prescribing rules covering all contracts

or agreements made with Federal agencies by tax-supported public schools. All funds accruing from contracts entered into by a district school board and a Federal agency, pursuant to rules of the State Board, must be accounted for as prescribed by the State Board.

The Commissioner is responsible for recommending ways of cooperating with the Federal government on any phase of the educational program in which cooperation is desirable. The Commissioner recommends policies for administering funds appropriated from Federal sources to the State for any educational purpose, and provides for the execution of plans and policies approved by the State Board.

Local school districts receive funds from the Federal government directly and through the State as an administering agency. Local school districts may receive federal funds from various agencies such as the Department of Labor; Veterans Administration; Department of Interior; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Office of Economic Opportunity; Department of Defense; and Department of Agriculture.

Examples of Federal legislation under which local school districts may receive revenue are:

Adult Education Act, Title III, PL 91-600, as amended
Civil Rights Act, PL 81-920, as amended
Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IV, PL 88-352
Comprehensive Employment Training Act of 1973, PL 93-20
Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, Neighborhood Youth Corps, PL 88-452
Education for All Handicapped Children Act, PL 94-142
Education of the Handicapped, PL 91-230
Education Professions Development Act, PL 90-35, Part B-2
Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Titles I, IV-B, VI-C, VI, and VII, PL 89-10, as amended
Emergency School Assistance Program, PL 91-380
Federal Communications Act (ETV Facilities), PL 87-447
Head Start, PL 91-177
Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, PL 88-204
National Forest Funds, PL 83-690
National School Lunch Act of 1946, PL 79-396, as amended
School Assistance (Contruction) in Federally Affected Areas, PL 81-815, as amended
School Assistance (Current Operation) in Federally Affected Areas, PL 81-874, as amended
Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1952, PL 82-550, as amended
Vocational Education Act of 1963, as amended by PL 94-482 and 95-40

This report addresses the funding of public K-12 and adult education administered by the school districts in the State. It does not describe financial support of the community colleges nor of the universities.

DESCRIPTION OF

STATE DISTRIBUTION

FLORIDA EDUCATION FINANCE PROGRAM

LEGAL AUTHORIZATION -- Sections 236.012-236.68, Florida Statutes

1978-79 APPROPRIATION -- $1,162,449,028 Total
1,050,490,318 For K through 12 programs
111,958,710 For adult programs

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION -- Each district participating in the state appropriations for the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) must provide evidence of its effort to maintain an adequate school program throughout the district and must meet at least the following requirements:

(1) Maintain adequate and accurate records including a system of internal accounts for individual schools, and file with the Department of Education, in correct and proper form, on or before the date due, each annual or periodic report which is required by the Rules of the State Board.

(2) Operate all schools for a term of at least 180 actual teaching days or the equivalent on an hourly basis. Upon written application, the State Board may prescribe procedures for altering this requirement.

(3) Provide written contracts for all instructional personnel and require not less than 196 days of service for all members of the instructional staff.

(4) Expend funds for salaries in accordance with a salary schedule or schedules adopted by the School Board in accordance with the provisions of the law and Rules of the State Board.

(5) Observe all requirements of the State Board relating to the preparation, adoption, and execution of budgets for the district school system.

(6) Levy the required local effort millage rate (6.4 mills for 1978-79) but no more than 8 mills on the nonexempt assessed valuation of the district, exclusive of the district millage voted for operation and capital outlay purposes under the provisions of Article VII, Section 9(b), of the Constitution of the State of Florida and for required debt services under the provisions of Article VII, Section 12, of the Constitution of the State of Florida. In addition an amount equal to $120 for each post-secondary vocational student is to be added to and become a part of the required local effort for each district.

(7) Maintain an ongoing systematic evaluation of the educational program needs of the district and develop a comprehensive annual and long-range plan for meeting the needs.

DEFINITIONS -- The following statements define terms used in the Florida Education Finance Program.

Membership hour -- A membership hour is sixty minutes of the district's instructional program as defined by the district school board. Instructional periods other than sixty minutes should be converted to two-place decimal form. For example, a student with six periods of 55 minutes (.917 hour) would be in membership 5.52 hours per day.

Full-time equivalent student -- The following statements define a full-time equivalent (FTE) student in accordance with the provisions of the FEFP:

(1) A full-time student in any of the programs listed in the FEFP.

(a) Kindergarten - Grade 3 (regular session)

One student on the membership roll of one school program or a combination of school programs for five school days (one school week) or the equivalent consisting of not less than 20 net hours.

(b) Kindergarten - Grade 3 (double session)

One student on the membership roll of one school program or a combination of school programs for five school days (one school week) or the equivalent of not less than 17 1/2 net hours.

(c) Grades 4-12 (regular session)

One student on the membership roll of one school program or a combination of school programs for five school days (one school week) or the equivalent consisting of not less than 25 net hours.

(d) Grades 4-12 (double session)

One student on the membership roll of one school program or a combination of school programs for five school days (one school week) or the equivalent consisting of not less than 22 1/2 net hours.

(2) A combination of full-time or part-time students in one of the programs listed in the FEFP which is the equivalent of one full-time student based on the following calculations.

(a) A full-time student, except post-secondary and adult, in a combination of programs listed in the FEFP shall be a fraction of a full-time equivalent membership in each program equal to the number of net hours per week for which he is a member divided by 25.

(b) A student in the basic half-day kindergarten program of not less than 12 1/2 net hours shall earn 1/2 of a full-time equivalent membership.

(c) A part-time student, except post-secondary and adult, shall be a fraction of a full-time equivalent membership in each basic and special program equal to the number of net hours or major fraction thereof per week for which he is a member divided by 25.

(d) All post-secondary and adult students shall be a portion of a full-time equivalent membership in each special program equal to the net hours or major fraction thereof per fiscal year for which he is a member, divided by 900.

For the purposes of calculating the full-time equivalent student membership, a student is considered in membership until he withdraws or until the sixth consecutive school day of his absence.

Full-time equivalent student membership in programs scheduled for more than 180 days shall be limited to special exceptional student, vocational-technical, and adult general education programs and to basic programs offered for promotion or course credit instruction, provided that promotion policies do not include remedial, enrichment, or recreational activities.

Residents of Sunland Centers and mental health institutions may generate full-time equivalent membership and participate in public school programs when it is the desire of the school district and if the students meet the criteria for participating in the FEFP.

Program cost factor -- The Legislature established cost factors based on relative cost differences among the 26 programs. The cost factors for the vocational-technical adult supplemental programs were created for 1978-79 to reflect 80% of the 1978-79 vocational-technical job preparatory program cost factors. The program cost factor for grades K through 3 remains at 1.234 to continue the emphasis on early childhood programs.

Basic Programs	Cost Factor
Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, and 3	1.234
Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9	1.00
Grades 10, 11, and 12	1.09
Educational Alternatives	2.00
Exceptional Student Programs	
Educable mentally retarded	2.26
Trainable mentally retarded	2.91
Physically handicapped	3.40
Physical & occupational therapy, part-time	6.47
Speech and hearing therapy, part-time	9.19
Deaf	3.92
Visually handicapped, part-time	10.40
Visually handicapped	3.54
Emotionally disturbed, part-time	6.98
Emotionally disturbed	3.59
Specific learning disability, part-time	6.68
Specific learning disability	2.33
Gifted, part-time	2.91
Hospital & homebound, part-time	14.14
Profoundly handicapped	6.50

Vocational-Technical Programs

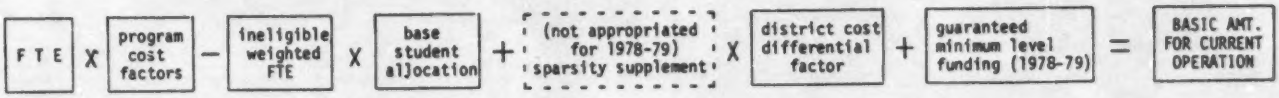
	Job Preparatory	Adult Supplement
Vocational Education I	3.76	3.01
Vocational Education II	2.44	1.95
Vocational Education III	2.03	1.62
Vocational Education IV	1.61	1.29
Vocational Education V	1.44	1.15
Vocational Education VI	1.06	0.85

Adult General Education Programs	
Adult Basic Education & Adult High School	1.21

Base student allocation -- The base student allocation is determined annually by the Legislature. For the 1978-79 school fiscal year, the base student allocation is $899.27. However, this allocation may be adjusted upward if the appropriation exceeds the total amount earned by school districts. This allocation may be adjusted downward in the event that the appropriation falls short of the total amount earned by school districts by means of prorating the FEFP allocation as described later. However, since separate appropriations were made for K through 12 and adult programs, different base student allocations may exist for each.

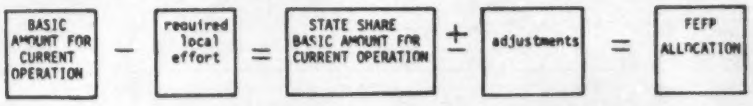
FORMULA FOR DISTRIBUTING STATE DOLLARS

Overview -- The BASIC AMOUNT FOR CURRENT OPERATION under the FEFP for each district is determined in the following manner:



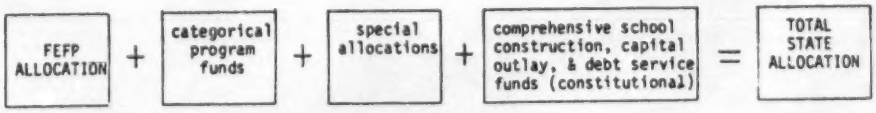
1. the full-time equivalent student membership in each program; multiplied by
2. the cost factor for each program; minus
3. ineligible weighted FTE; multiplied by
4. the base student allocation factor; plus
5. the sparsity supplement (not appropriated for 1978-79); multiplied by
6. the district cost differential factor; plus
7. the guaranteed minimum level funding (no loss or hold harmless)

The FEFP ALLOCATION for the support of public education is determined in the following manner:



1. from the basic amount for current operation, subtract
2. the required local effort;
3. to the remainder, which is the state share of the basic amount for current operation, add or subtract any applicable adjustments

The TOTAL STATE ALLOCATION for the support of public education is determined in the following manner:



1. to the FEFP allocation; add
2. the categorical program funds; add
3. any special allocations due; add
4. the constitutional capital outlay and debt service.

The following paragraphs more fully describe each step in the funding formula. The component(s) of the formula being described will be preceded by the appropriate box(es) from the formula. Any associated box(es) from the formula will be shown in stars.

Section 236.081(1)(a), Florida Statutes, specifies that full-time equivalent membership is determined in the following manner. During each of several school weeks during the fiscal year, a program membership survey of each school is made by each district by aggregating the full-time equivalent student membership of each program by school and by district.

The district's full-time equivalent membership is computed and maintained in accordance with rules of the State Board.

Section 6A-1.451(3), State Board of Education Rules, establishes that during the year, at least four full-time equivalent student membership surveys are conducted under the administrative direction of and on the schedule provided by the Commissioner. Section 236.081(1)(a), F.S. specifies that the number of full-time equivalent student membership surveys shall not exceed nine in a fiscal year.

The Commissioner has the authority to establish for any school district or school an alternate period for a full-time equivalent student membership survey within six weeks subsequent to the regular statewide survey period. Evidence must be submitted by the school district indicating an abnormal fluctuation in student membership occurred at the time of the statewide survey period. The Commissioner must limit his consideration of "abnormal fluctuation" to changes of more than 25% in any school or 5% in any district between the full-time equivalent student membership at the time of the regular statewide survey and the alternate period. The "abnormal fluctuation" must be caused by factors such as major student boycotts; civil disturbances; in- or out-migration in agricultural, industrial, or federal installations or contractors; or providential causes beyond the control of the district school board.

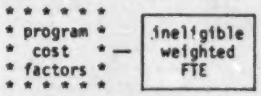
Students in a program scheduled for less than 180 days shall be a fraction of full-time equivalent membership based upon the number of scheduled days divided by 180.

For the purpose of calculating the full-time equivalent student membership, a student is eligible if both of the following conditions are satisfied.

(1) The student is in program membership at least one day during the survey, and

(2) The student is in attendance at least one of the days of the survey or one of the six days preceding the survey on which students were in attendance in school.

The FTE is multiplied by the appropriate program cost factor to produce weighted FTE for each program. The 26 programs identified by the Legislature are arranged into areas consisting of (1) basic programs, (2) exceptional student programs, (3) vocational-technical programs for job preparatory students, (4) vocational-technical programs for adult supplemental students, and (5) adult general education programs. The cost factors identified for the programs range from 1.00 for grades 4-9 basic to a high of 14.14 for hospital and homebound part-time students.



The Legislature placed the following constraints or caps on the level of state support in certain of the program areas:

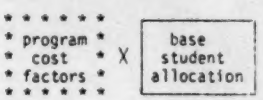
(1) The only limit specified for the basic programs is for the Educational Alternatives program. This program's weighted full-time equivalent student membership must not exceed 23,000.
(2) The weighted full-time equivalent student membership in exceptional student programs must not exceed 224,792.
(3) The weighted full-time equivalent student membership in vocational-technical programs must not exceed 207,753.
(4) The weighted full-time equivalent student membership in vocational-technical programs for adults must not exceed 92,003. Of this amount no more than 12,650 may be utilized for vocational-technical adult supplemental programs.
(5) The weighted full-time equivalent student membership in the adult basic education and adult high school programs must not exceed 37,444.

In administering the maximums, the Department reviews each district's program and needs with each scheduled student membership survey and reassigns the authorized weighted membership within the maximums provided. Reassignment priorities go to those districts with the lowest incidence of programs to students identified to be in need of such programs.

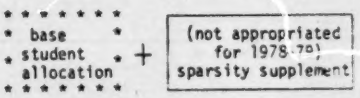
With respect to the visually handicapped part-time program, upon request of a school board in any district or multi-district area in which at least five students are receiving an appropriate program, the department may assign three unweighted FTE's for this program until such time as more than three are generated.

In any district in which the actual full-time equivalent membership multiplied by the appropriate cost factors exceeds the assigned maximum, such excess full-time equivalent student membership is computed at a cost factor of 1.00.

Examples of administering the maximums can be found in Appendix B.



The base student allocation is determined annually by the Legislature. For the 1978-79 school fiscal year, the base student allocation is $899.27.

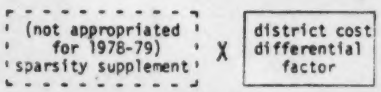


Annually, in an amount to be determined by the Legislature, some school districts will qualify for a sparsity supplement. For 1978-79, the Legislature appropriated no funds for the sparsity supplement. The factor of extra cost to school districts due to sparsity of pupil population for equivalent educational programs is computed as follows:

$$\text{Sparsity factor} = \frac{1101.8919}{\text{2700 plus the sparsity index of the district}} \text{ minus } 0.1101$$

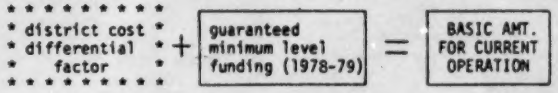
Districts with a sparsity index of 1,000 or less are computed as having a sparsity index of 1,000 and districts having a sparsity index of 7,309 and above are computed as having a sparsity factor of 0.

The district sparsity index is computed by dividing the total number of full-time equivalent students in all programs in the district by the number of senior high school centers in the district, not in excess of three. The senior high school centers must be approved as permanent centers by a survey made by the Department of Education.



Next, the district cost differential factor is applied to the formula. The cost differential factors range from a low of 0.94123 to a high of 1.07160.

Vocational Equipment -- Of the amount generated by weighted full-time equivalent students in 1978-79 in vocational programs, $6,000,000 is required to be earmarked solely for the purpose of purchasing equipment for vocational classes. These funds shall be allocated on a weighted vocational full-time equivalent student basis. An additional $6,200,000 of Federal Vocational Funds are also earmarked for the replacement and updating of vocational education equipment.



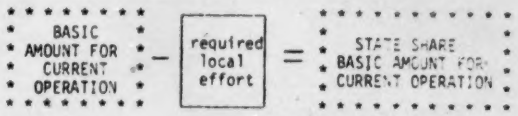
A guaranteed minimum level of funding (no-loss or hold-harmless provision) is added which guarantees that each district will receive a minimum increase of 7.25% in total potential funding per full-time equivalent student in 1978-79 over the total funding avialable per full-time equivalent student in 1977-78.

The 1977-78 total funding available is determined by (1) full-time equivalent students, (2) multiplied by the respective program cost factors, (3) minus the respective ineligible weighted full-time equivalent students, (4) multiplied by the base student allocation, (5) multiplied by the district cost differential, (6) minus any prorated-amount-less-adjustment, (7) plus the calculated yield of the actual non-voted millage levied in 1977-78 on 95% of the 1977 official final tax roll for school purposes.

The 1978-79 total potential funding available is determined by (1) the full-time equivalent students, (2) multiplied by the respective program cost factors, (3) minus the respective ineligible weighted full-time equivalent students, (4) multiplied by the base student allocation, (5) multiplied by the district cost differential, (6) minus any prorated-amount-less-adjustment, (7) plus post-secondary vocational fees, plus the calculated yield of eight mills as applied to 95% of the 1978 official final tax roll for school purposes.

The actual allocation for guaranteed minimum level funding is computed by adding the 1977-78 FEFP dollars before prior year adjustments to the non-voted millage levied on 95% of the tax roll. This total is (1) divided by unweighted FTE from that 1977-78 FEFP computation, (2) multiplied by the unweighted FTE in the 1978-79 estimated program, and (3) increased by 7.25%. To this base is compared a total of the gross FEFP dollars from this computation, and 8 mills times 95% of the 1978 estimated tax roll, plus post-secondary vocational fees. If the latter total is less than the base, the difference is the guaranteed minimum level funding.

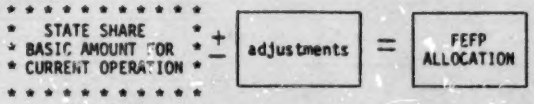
Those districts qualifying for guaranteed minimum level funding for 1978-79 generally had a non-exempt assessed valuation per full-time equivalent student amount which was not increasing as much as the state average and/or a district cost differential which was decreasing. Those school districts with a non-exempt assessed valuation per weighted full-time equivalent student which exceeds the state average by more than 20% are ineligible for any guaranteed minimum level funding.



The district required local effort is subtracted from the basic amount for current operation. The amount (required local effort) that each district must provide toward the cost of the Florida Education Finance Program shall be calculated in the following manner:

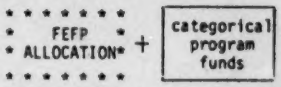
The Department of Revenue on or before July 10, based on the latest available data obtained from the local property appraisers, certifies to the Commissioner of Education its most recent estimate of the nonexempt assessed valuation of each school district for the current calendar year. The Commissioner, upon receipt of the data, calculates each district's required local effort by computing 95% of the district's nonexempt assessed valuation for school purposes. and multiplying this product by the millage rate prescribed in the current year's general appropriation act, which for 1978-79 is 6.4 mills.

In addition, an amount equal to $120 for each post-secondary vocational unweighted full-time equivalent student is to be added to and become a part of the required local effort for each district. Because of a separate adult FEFP appropriation, this $120 fee is the required local effort for adult programs.



Prorated Amount Less Adjustment -- If the funds appropriated for the total program fall short of the total amount earned by the school districts, a procedure for prorating available funds is established to insure maintenance of the equalization principle.

Prior Year Adjustment -- A provision is also added to authorize the Department to make prior-year adjustments in the allocation of funds to a district for arithmetical errors, assessment roll changes, full-time equivalent student membership errors, or allocation errors revealed in an audit report.



Categorical program funds are added to the basic FEFP program funds distributed to districts. These categorical appropriations may be funded as general and transitional categorical programs. It is the intent of the Legislature that no transitional categorical program be funded for more than four fiscal years from the date of original authorization. The 1978-79 categorical programs are listed below:

General Categorical Programs

Legal Authorization	Program Title	1978-79 Appropriation
228.071	Community Schools	$ 1,896,000
236.122	Instructional Materials	20,001,419
228.195	School Lunch Programs	3,953,239
236.088	Student Development Services	16,706,156
236.083	Student Transportation	51,520,415
233.067	Comprehensive Health Education Program	1,016,709

Transitional Categorical Programs

229.832	Regional Diagnostic-Resource Centers	652.965

Any special allocation of state dollars to districts is added to the amount distributed to districts. One such allocation is the District Environmental Education Act of 1973 (Section 229.8055, FS) as amended in 1975. This act specifies that each district school board, and each school principal through the district school board, may submit to the Commissioner a proposed program designed to effectuate an exemplary environmental education program in the district. In practice, most school districts have participated in the program each year and project funding has ranged from $500 to nearly $30,000.

Another example is the provision of instructional materials for the visually handicapped of the State as provided in Section 233.056, Florida Statutes. This appropriation is for the support of an instructional materials center to provide materials for the visually handicapped throughout the State.

The Commissioner has developed procedures for the distribution of Adult Community Instructional Service Program funds to the various school districts and community colleges, giving consideration to "need, target population, existing or potential duplication of effort, estimated costs and appropriate fees to be charged." The regional coordinating councils play a role in determining the distribution of these funds. Priority is given to those programs that include arrangement for the cooperative use of facilities and resources of other public or private institutions, agencies, and organizations. These funds are for the support of educational activities, courses, and programs based upon significant community problems related to the environment, health, safety, human relations, government, child rearing, and consumer economics.

The third special allocation is for the State Compensatory Education Supplement with a 1978-79 appropriation of $26,500,000. This program takes note of the requirements within the "Educational Accountability Act of 1976" relating to the provision of special remedial programs for students because of inability to meet minimum basic skills, and establishes a state program to provide supplemental funds to each school district for the purpose of direct remedial instruction for these students.

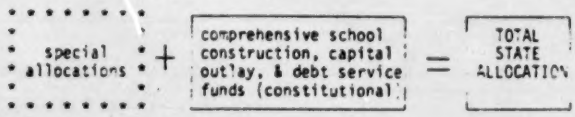
The program provides that the funds appropriated annually by the Legislature be allocated proportionately to each school district on the basis of the number of students in Grades 3, 5, 8, and 11 whose scores on the statewide student assessment tests are at the 25th percentile or below.

In order to receive its allocated funds, each school district must submit a plan to the Department of Education describing its proposed program, including a summary of all remedial and compensatory instruction to be provided from all sources of funds: federal, state or local.

Each application by a district must contain an assurance that the funds will not be used in a supplantive manner, and that the program will not result in a decrease of any state, local or federal funds which have been available for the education of such students.

The Commissioner prepares and transmits to the Legislature, prior to January 10 of each year, a report showing the number of students participating in approved programs, the extent to which achievement has increased, the programs which appear to be most successful, and an analysis of the expenditure of funds by district.

The program further requires that, beginning with the 1978-79 school year, the Commissioner evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the district Compensatory Education Programs which have been in operation for two or more years, and terminate state funds for the five programs determined to be the least cost-effective each year.



Article XII, Section 9(a), of the Constitution of the State of Florida and Section 235.435, Florida Statutes, provide comprehensive school construction and debt service funds to Florida school districts, along with specified amounts to the Boards of Trustees of Community Colleges, the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. The State Board of Education may allocate up to the amount authorized for approved capital outlay projects.

For 1978-79, $89,564,508 has been appropriated for approved capital outlay projects for school districts. Of this amount $13,057,159 is to be allocated among certain school districts to be expended on area vocational-technical centers; $2,591,199 allocated to the school boards of Marion and Levy Counties for a multi-county high school; $673,895 allocated for certain public broadcasting facilities; $67,242,255 allocated to the 67 school districts as provided in Chapter 235.435, Florida Statutes.

The annual allocation to each district is determined as follows:

(1) Determine the cost of the projected school plant needs, the five-year projected debt service needs on voted ad valorem bonds, and the expenditures of ad valorem taxes in excess of 10 mills for each district for the past five years. Funds budgeted from current ad valorem tax revenue will not be considered in determining the unmet need. (See Section 235.435 (1), F.S.)

(2) Determine the projected additional resources available under the provisions of Section 9(d), Article XII of the State Constitution as amended in 1972, and the projected amount available to each district from other fund sources allocated for school construction.

(3) From the costs of the projected school plant and 5-year projected debt service needs on local bond issues for each district, subtract the projected additional resources available and add the expenditure of ad valorem taxes in excess of 10 mills. The result represents the estimated cost of unfunded school plant and debt service needs for each district.

(4) The funds are allocated to the respective districts in proportion to their percentage of the state total of unfunded school plant and debt service needs.

Relocatable facilities (Section 235.211, F.S.) -- Upon the request of a district school board, the State Board of Education provides relocatable educational facilities for use at school centers where there is an immediate need for pupil stations and where there is reason to believe the pupil population will not remain stable.

The Department is empowered and directed to provide systems-based, modular, relocatable facilities and to purchase or contract for purchase of such modular relocatable facilities. The ownership of such facilities rests with the State Board, and they are loaned to district school boards for use as instructional facilities on a pupil-station-need basis.

Article XII, Section 9(d), of the Constitution of the State of Florida provides capital outlay and debt service funds for school districts. It specifies that the first proceeds of the revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles shall be distributed annually among the school districts in the ratio of the number of instruction units. These funds may be pledged for the payment of State Board of Education bonds (see Appendix I).

For distribution purposes, the 1967-68 school fiscal year was established as a base year with districts receiving $600 per instruction unit up to the 1967-68 total and $800 per instruction unit for those units above the base. The units beyond the base are designated "growth units."

Section 236.602(1), Florida Statutes, specifies the procedures for computing instruction units from FTE's. The number of current instruction units in districts is computed annually by the Department by multiplying the number of full-time equivalent students in each district by the program cost factors (Section 236.081(1)(c), Florida Statutes) and dividing by twenty-three, except that all basic program cost factors shall be one, and the special program cost factors for hospital and homebound part-time and for adult community service shall be zero.

Any portion of the fund not expended during any fiscal year may be carried forward.